

SPECULI BRITANNIÆ PARS.

SPECULI BRITANNIÆ PARS:
AN
HISTORICAL AND CHOROGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF
ESSEX,
BY JOHN NORDEN,
1594.

EDITED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IN THE MARQUESS OF
SALISBURY'S LIBRARY AT HATFIELD,

BY SIR HENRY ELLIS.



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At a Meeting of the Council of the Camden Society, held at
No. 25, Parliament Street, Westminster, on Thursday the
9th April, 1840,

THOMAS AMYOT, Esq. DIRECTOR, IN THE CHAIR,

IT WAS RESOLVED,

That the thanks of the Council be given to the Most Noble
the MARQUESS OF SALISBURY for the courtesy and kindness with
which his Lordship acceded to the request of the Council, to be
permitted to use the MS. Volume, which contains the original of
Norden's Description of Essex.

By order of the Council,

WILLIAM J. THOMS,
Secretary.

INTRODUCTION.

THE particulars of the life of John Norden, as far as we are acquainted with them, are few, and even those, as stated by his biographers, not all certain. Anthony à Wood assures us he was educated at Oxford, and takes him for the same person who was author of no fewer than fifteen devotional pieces, some of which went through many, and one, "The Pensive Man's Practice," 12^o, 1591, through forty editions. Granger thought these books in divinity belonged to another person, possibly his father. The dates, however, as enumerated by Wood, exactly correspond with the period over which the topographical productions extend; and we have no actual knowledge of any other writer of both his names.

Wood describes Norden as born of a genteel family, but in what county, unless in Wilts, he could not tell:^a Gough says about 1548.^b He was admitted a commoner of Hart Hall, Oxford, in

^a Athenæ Oxon. Bliss's edit. vol. ii. col. 279.

^b Brit. Topogr. vol. i. p. 266.